

C1 being highlighted when displayed by said display device, said first non-displayable data being used by said processing device for recognizing said second set of displayable data, said second non-displayable data being used by said processing device for recognizing said first linkage reference, said first linkage reference being used for retrieving a portion of said second set of digital data, and said second set of displayable data being associated with said first linkage reference;

receiving said first linkage references transmitted by at least one of said sites using said communication channels;

searching, by said database, for said portion of said second set of digital data referenced by said first linkage reference when said second set of displayable digital data is selected by a user in said at least one of said sites; and

sending, by said database, said portion to said at least one of said remote sites via said communication channels.

C2 Claim 5 (Once Amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said database contains a third set of digital data, wherein said second set of digital data comprises a second linkage reference associated with said third set of digital data, said method further comprising a step of searching said database in response to said second linkage reference.

C3 Claim 7 (Once Amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said second set of displayable data is enclosed between a pair of said first non-displayable data and said first linkage reference is enclosed between a pair of said second non-displayable data.

C4 Claim 8 (Twice Amended). An information distribution system for distributing digital data to be displayed in a plurality of remote sites each having a processing device and a display device, comprising:

a plurality of portable read-only storage devices each encoded with a first set of digital data, said storage devices being distributed to said plurality of remote sites;

a database containing a second set of digital data and remotely communicating with said sites using communication channels;

C4 said first set of digital data comprising a first set of displayable data, a plurality of formatting codes, a second set of displayable data, a first non-displayable data, a non-displayable first linkage reference, and a second non-displayable data, said second set of displayable data being highlighted when displayed by said display device, said first non-displayable data being used by said processing device for recognizing said second set of displayable data, said second non-displayable data being used by said processing device for recognizing said first linkage reference, said first linkage reference being used for retrieving a portion of said second set of digital data, and said second set of displayable data being associated with said first linkage reference;

said database receiving said first linkage reference delivered by at least one of said remote sites; and

means in said database for searching said portion of said second set of digital data referenced by said first linkage reference and for sending said portion to said at least one remote sites via at least one of said communication channels.

C5 Claim 11 (Once Amended). The system of claim 8 wherein said database contains a third set of digital data, wherein said second set of digital data comprises a second linkage reference associated with said third set of digital data, and wherein said means for searching further searches said database in response to said second linkage reference.

C6 Claim 13 (Once Amended). The system of claim 8 wherein said second set of displayable data is enclosed between a pair of said first non-displayable data and said first linkage reference is enclosed between a pair of said second non-displayable data.

C7 Claim 17 (Twice Amended). A method for distributing digital data via communication channels to a plurality of remote sites each having a processing device, a nonvolatile memory, and a display device, comprising the steps of:

generating a first set of digital data;

encoding each of a plurality of portable read-only storage devices with said first set of digital data;

distributing said plurality of storage devices to said plurality of remote sites;

providing a database containing a second set of digital data, said database accessible by said plurality of remote sites via said communication channels;

C7 said first set of digital data comprising a set of displayable data and a first linkage reference associated with said set of displayable data, said set of displayable data transferable to said nonvolatile memory and displayable on said display device, said first linkage reference transferable to said nonvolatile memory but not displayable on said display device, said first linkage reference being transmitted to said database via said communication channels when said set of displayable data is selected by a user in at least one of said plurality of sites;

accepting by said database said first linkage reference originated from said at least one of said plurality of sites;

searching, by said database, for a portion of said second set of digital data referenced by said first linkage reference; and

sending, by said database, said portion to said at least one of said plurality of sites via said communication channels.

C8 Claim 21 (Once Amended). The method of claim 17 wherein said database contains a third set of digital data, wherein said second set of digital data comprises a second linkage reference associated with said third set of digital data, said method further comprising a step of searching said database in response to said second linkage reference.

C9 Claim 23 (Once Amended). The method of claim 17 wherein said first linkage reference is enclosed between a pair of non-displayable data.

Claim 24 (Twice Amended). An information distribution system for distributing digital data via communication channels to a plurality of remote sites each having a processing device, a nonvolatile memory, and a display device, comprising:

C10 a plurality of portable read-only storage devices each encoded with a first set of digital data, said storage devices being distributed to said plurality of remote sites;

a database containing a second set of digital data and remotely communicating with said sites using said communication channels;

C10 said first set of digital data comprising a set of displayable data and a first linkage reference associated with said set of displayable data, said set of displayable data transferable to said nonvolatile memory and displayable on said display device, said first linkage reference transferable to said nonvolatile memory but not displayable on said display device, said first linkage reference being transmitted to said database via said communication channels when said set of displayable data is selected by a user;

said database receiving said first linkage reference delivered by at least one of said plurality of sites; and

means in said database for searching for a portion of said second set of digital data referenced by said first linkage reference and for sending said portion to said at least one site via said communication channels.

C11 Claim 27 (Once Amended). The method of claim 24 wherein said database contains a third set of digital data, wherein said second set of digital data comprises a second linkage reference associated with said third set of digital data, said wherein said means for searching further searches said database in response to said second linkage reference.

C12 Claim 29 (Once Amended). The method of claim 24 wherein said first linkage reference is enclosed between a pair of non-displayable data.

Please add the following new claims:

46 (New). A method for distributing a first set of digital data stored in a database to a plurality of remote sites each having a display device and a communication channel, comprising the steps of:

providing each of said plurality of remote sites with a portable read-only storage device encoded with a second set of digital data;

C13 providing each of said plurality of remote sites with a processing device comprising a nonvolatile memory unit for storing at least a portion of said second set of digital data, said portion comprising a first set of displayable data, a second set of displayable data, a first non-displayable data indicating a presence of said second set of displayable data, a non-displayable

first linkage reference associated with said second set of displayable data and said first set of digital data; and

receiving, by at least one of said remote sites and subsequent to both said providing steps, said first set of digital data, comprising the steps of:

allowing a user in said at least one of said remote sites to select said second set of displayable data;

extracting said first linkage reference after said user selected said second set of displayable data;

transmitting said extracted first linkage reference to said database through said communication channel; and

receiving said first set of digital data from said database through said communication channel.

C13 47 (New). The method of claim 46 wherein said storage devices are optically encoded storage devices.

48 (New). The method of claim 46 wherein said second set of digital data further comprises video data.

49 (New). The method of claim 46 wherein said second set of digital data further comprises a computer game.

50 (New). The method of claim 46 wherein said database contains a third set of digital data, wherein said first set of digital data comprises a second linkage reference associated with said third set of digital data.

51 (New). The method of claim 46 wherein said portion further comprises a second non-displayable data indicating a presence of said first linkage reference.
